

California State Assembly KAREN BASS

Dear Friends,

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed by the President, also known as the economic stimulus package, will create and save nearly 400,000 jobs in California over the next 2 years. California and its residents are eligible for an estimated \$60 billion for state programs and tax relief.

However, the stimulus package contains several "use-it-or-lose-it" provisions. This means if some state laws aren't changed to conform with federal guidelines, the funding will be given to other states.

With rising unemployment — as high as 11% statewide, and even higher in some regions — the Assembly is working hard to secure California's fair share of these federal funds to create jobs, improve roads and highways, and jumpstart the state's economy through smart investments in clean energy and water supply stability.

These types of infrastructure projects will create jobs and become economic engines for communities to attract new businesses to create even more jobs.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act also will provide incentives to stabilize the housing and automobile markets, tax credits for small businesses, and increased access to affordable health care.

The Assembly understands that families across California are facing difficult times in this economy. That's why the Assembly is committed to taking whatever legislative action is necessary to ensure California gets its fair share of federal funds, and they are used to the maximum benefit.

As always, it is an honor to serve you.

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The President's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will Provide California with \$60 Billion in stimulus funds.

What does this mean for you and your family?

An Economic Stimulus Package for All Californians

What the stimulus means for you:

ith California's unemployment rate sharply increasing to 11 percent, the Assembly recently provided Californians with \$14.3 billion in needed economic relief from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

By conforming state policy to meet federal requirements, measures passed in the Assembly will make California eligible for additional federal funds. This includes \$10.1 billion in federal health care stimulus and \$443 million in wastewater and safe drinking water infrastructure stimulus. It also expedites \$2.6 billion in stimulus funds for California's transportation projects to create jobs as quickly as possible.

Additionally, the State Legislature sponsored a measure to enact unemployment legislation that would allow Californians to include work done in more recent months towards their unemployment benefit formula; capturing \$840 million in federal unemployment insurance stimulus funds.

What the stimulus means for California and Los Angeles County:

Below is information on some of the many state projects and programs that will benefit from the infusion of funds.



Unemployment Insurance - Increases benefits for millions of unemployed Californians hit hard by the recession.

It is estimated that 132,000 people living in Los Angeles County who are long-term unemployed will become eligible for the federal extended unemployment insurance benefits in 2009. These Los Angeles County residents will receive an estimated \$843 million in unemployment insurance benefits.

For more information on unemployment insurance, contact the California Employment Development Department at www.edd.ca.gov/ or 1-800-300-5616.



Homebuyer/Homeowner Assistance

California needs to make smart investments that help create a robust housing market by

aiding existing homeowners and encouraging first-time home buyers to enter the market. The Assembly supports solutions, like the personal income tax credit for first-time home buyers.

For assistance visit www.adc.asm.ca.gov/issues/mortgagecrisis or call 1-800-569-4287.



Transportation and Infrastructure: Creating Jobs and Building for the Future

Approximately 300 local and regional transportation projects throughout Los Angeles County are scheduled to receive ARRA funding. Contact the California Department of Transportation, Los Angeles District Office to find out how federal stimulus is creating transportation jobs in your area at: www.dot.ca.gov/dist07 or call 1-213-897-3656.



Expanding Access to Health Care

Thanks to the State Assembly, 900,000 more of California's children will now qualify

for health care coverage through the recently re-enacted State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

To find out more about access to California's Healthy Families Program, visit: www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov or call 1-800-880-5305.

